

to understand that I consider it a superior fruit to avocado. I think I said, or at least I intended to say, that I thought its flavor was really superior to that of the avocado. It has some weak spots, of course, but I am strongly impressed with its remarkably rich and nutty flavor. Kensett Champney considers that its flavor is superior to that of the avocado. He seems to think it "wears well" but of course I can not state my own experience. I will admit that I am somewhat enthusiastic over it. As you know, I have a habit of getting enthusiastic over these new things. After my second trip to the Verapaz, I will write up an account of the *coyo*, tempered with as generous an amount of conservatism as I can muster, and send it up to you. I want to get a little more data than I now have. As it grows wild up to 5000 feet or above, it must be about as hardy as the Guatemalan avocado. Many thanks for Dr. Galloway's notes re the condition of my shipment of budwood from the Verapaz. They were a great help to me, because of their clearness and comprehensiveness. I regret that I cannot enthuse over the *Pacaya*. I have eaten it several times, under protest, and unless the inflorescences are very young they are bitter. When very young they form an excellent matrix for salad dressing. The palm is a beauty, however, and fairly hardy. It ought to be given a wide trial in Florida and California. The work here remains fascinating. There is a great deal to be done yet before I will feel satisfied to end the search for the best avocados, but I am pushing things as best I can, and I hope nothing will happen to knock us out. I am in the pink of condition. I neglected to mention in this letter that I have found the first serious injury done to avocado fruits which I have seen in Guatemala. At Panajachel that larva which bores in the seeds, and which seems to be the same as the one Mr. Sasser found in some of the seeds I sent up, is causing tremendous damage. I have some photos of fruits cut open, showing the injury, which I will send up soon and which will make the matter much stronger than I can do it with words. A large percentage of the fruits I examined were infested, and many were so badly so that they were not fit to eat. This is unquestionably a serious thing, and one we must guard against carefully. I have some infested seeds in an improvised breeding cage and am going to see if I can breed out some of the adult insects."